

REMARKS

This amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated December 26, 2007. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is requested. In this Office Action, claims 1-29 are considered and rejected over the prior art. Specifically, claims 1-14 and 20-29 are rejected as being obvious over Ryan (U.S. 6,374,036) and in view of Fukushima (U.S. 6,388,638). Claims 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being obvious over Ryan and in view of Rhodes (U.S. 5,432,900). These rejections are respectfully traversed. At pages 2-4 of the Office Action, the Examiner contends that the previous claim amendments were either not fully supported by the specification or the claims, as broadly construed, can be read on the art. In view of these criticisms, Applicant has extensively edited claims 1 and 7.

These claims now spell out in considerable detail that, for any sequence of frames that may be normally used to display an image, at least one of the frames presents an altered version of the image. Such an altered version, if displayed, would obviously adulterate significantly the quality of the picture. The claims now recite that tags associated with each of the altered frames are recognized by a rendering unit that includes a tag detector and an action table for defining the action to be taken when a tag is detected. The altered frames may be selectively viewed, adulterating the picture, or suppressed from view, in which case the quality of the picture is maintained.

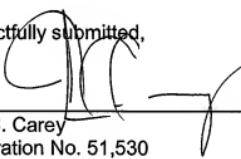
These new limitations are clearly not shown in the art relied on by the Examiner, Ryan, cited as a basic reference against all claims, only discloses a device for protecting digital content that allows one time recording and prohibits subsequent recordings by performing the following steps. First, (see column 5, lines 54-67) Ryan detects a tag in a data stream. Next, (see column 6, lines 1-7) Ryan compares the attribute value of the tag or field marker with a value decoded from a watermark in the data stream. If the device determines that the values are equal, then the recording continues. Otherwise, the recording stops. If the recording continues, the device alters the field markers. When a subsequent recording is attempted, the value of the field marker will be different from the value decoded from the watermark and the recording will be disabled. Again, none of these features is similar to the functionality recited in the pending claims, which includes detecting tags in the stream of data that identify

singular unaltered frames in a sequence of frames. The unaltered frames are only displayed when, due to a further input, such display is authorized through an action table.

In addition to the foregoing, Ryan teaches (see column 3, lines 59-63 and column 7, line 43) that the field marker is inserted in the invisible portion of the active video and that the portion of altering digital content not visible to viewer. The claimed invention relies on making an unaltered tagged frame visible, if called upon to do so, to prevent the accurate depiction of the sequence of frames being provided.

The Applicant has also reviewed the other references cited by the Examiner. They do not make up for the limitations of the Ryan reference or disclose or suggest in any way the features of altering the display of the sequence of frames so that when a tag is detected, an adulterated or unauthorized frame is displayed. In view of these distinctions, reconsideration and allowance of claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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